

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A medical device for providing access to an internal space in a patient, the device comprising:

a first elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end, an outer diameter, and an internal lumen;

a second elongate member having an open proximal end, an open distal end, and an internal lumen having an internal diameter and providing a passageway extending therethrough;

wherein the first member is releasably attachable to the second member to provide a generally continuous fluid passageway, wherein the outer diameter of the first elongate member is greater than the internal diameter of the internal lumen of the second elongate member, and such that the distal end of the first member is positioned intermediate the proximal and distal ends of the second member upon attachment of the second member to the first member; and

wherein at least one of the first and second members has at least one opening extending through a wall thereof and spaced proximally from the distal end of the member.

2. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 wherein the first member has an open distal tip.

3. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 wherein the first member has a closed distal tip.

4. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 wherein the first member has a pointed tip selected from the group consisting of bifurcated and non-bifurcated tips.

5. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 wherein the first member comprises a relatively rigid body portion and a relatively flexible distal end portion.

6. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 wherein the first member comprises a hollow cannula extension.

7. (previously amended) The medical device of Claim 1 wherein the second member comprises a cannula.
8. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 further comprising a cap releasably attachable to the proximal end of at least one of the first member and the second member.
9. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 further comprising a cap releasably attachable to the proximal end of both the first member and the second member.
10. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 wherein the first member comprises a tip adapted to pierce a perforable membrane.
11. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 wherein the first member comprises at least one opening through a wall of the first member, the at least one opening spaced proximally of the distal end of the first member.
12. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 wherein the first member comprises a plurality of openings through the wall of the first member.
13. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 wherein the second member comprises a beveled distal end.
14. (original) The medical device of claim 1 wherein the second member comprises at least one opening through a wall of the second member, the at least one opening spaced proximally of the distal end of the second member.
15. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 comprising a sleeve positionable along an outside surface of the first member.
16. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 comprising a sleeve having a sealing surface for providing sealing between the first member and a portion of a patient's body.

17. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second members comprises a generally transparent wall.
18. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second members comprises a non-circular cross section.
19. (previously amended) The medical device of Claim 1 further comprising a cap adapted for releasably attaching to at least one of the first and second members.
20. (original) The medical device of Claim 19 wherein the cap has an opening therethrough.
21. (original) The medical device of Claim 19 wherein the cap is adapted to provide a substantially airtight seal.
22. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 further comprising a sleeve having a sealing surface for aiding in preventing gas leakage through an incision.
23. (original) The medical device of Claim 1 further comprising a sleeve, the sleeve having a coating comprising a medicinal substance.
24. (original) The medical device of Claim 23 wherein the medicinal substance is selected from the group of substances consisting of hemostatic substances, anti-microbial substances, antibacterial substances, pain reducing agents, and combinations thereof.
25. (cancelled)

26. (previously amended) An assembly comprising:

a vacuum device for providing an operative space within a patient; and

a multicomponent device for providing access from a point external of the vacuum device to a point within the patient; the multicomponent device comprising detachable first and second members, the first member for providing a first portion of an access passageway, and the second member for providing a second portion of an access passageway.

27. (previously added) A medical device for providing access to an internal space in a patient, the device comprising:

a cannula having an outside surface, an open proximal end, an open distal end, an internal lumen extending from the proximal end to the distal end; and

a cannula extension having an open proximal end, a distal end, and an internal lumen, wherein the distal end of the cannula extension is sized to be received within the proximal end of the cannula, wherein the cannula extension is releasably attachable to a proximal portion of the cannula such that the distal end of the cannula extension is positioned within the internal lumen of the cannula a predetermined distance from the open distal end of the cannula, and wherein the distal end of the cannula extension extends less than halfway into the internal lumen of the cannula.